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Another Bogus Academic Study Creates Bogus Headlines

By Colin Flaherty

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Thanks to the Washington *Post*, we have new entry in what is surely the fastest-growing industry in academia: bogus studies that purport to show there is no difference between black and white rates of crime. The only difference comes from the big bad racist police, prosecutors, parole officers, judges, juries, reporters, editors and others who are also in on The Big Fix and relentlessly pick on black people, For No Reason What So Ever.

Even in black cities with black mayors, black police chiefs and black prosecutors -- like Washington.

This latest headline from the Post tells a shocking story: "Black teens who commit a few crimes go to jail as often as white teens who commit dozens."

Or it would be shocking if it were true. But it is not.

This headline, of course, flies in the face of numbers that show violent crime for black people is astronomically out of proportion: 5, 10, 50 times greater than crime rates for white people. Throw Asians into the mix, and you can multiply that by 10 times more.

Turns out, they are also in on The Big Fix: "Although there were negligible differences among the racial groups in how frequently boys committed crimes, white boys were less likely to spend time in a facility than black and Hispanic boys who said they'd committed crimes just as frequently, as shown in the chart above," quoth the *Post*.

"Negligible differences among the racial groups?" What? Where did that come from?

That gem of disbelief is contained in a study from Tia Stevens Andersen of the University of South Carolina and Michigan State University's Merry Morash.

And where did they get it? "Surveyors (from the Department of Labor) asked

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youth whether they had stolen, destroyed property, attacked someone or sold drugs in the last year."

In for a dime, in for a dollar: In another study quoted in the *Post*, "An annual survey conducted by the National Institutes of Health continues to find lower rates of drug use among blacks than whites, with rates for Hispanics in the middle."

Both studies rely on self-reporting, which itself is the subject of a lot of research. And a lot of scientists have found that asking people whether they broke the law is notoriously unreliable. Especially for one racial group: African Americans.

Yes, they say that.

Some doctors at Johns Hopkins University found out what happens when you test the reliability of self-reporting of marijuana and other drug use among black people.

A study of 290 African American men in Baltimore, Maryland undergoing treatment for hypertension showed that self-reporting of illicit drug use is unreliable. Only 48 of the participants reported drug use but urine drug tests revealed that 131 had used drugs.

With self-reporting, drug use among black people was 16 percent.

With testing, 45 percent.

Ooops -- there's more. Different study, different journal.

According to the medical journal Addictive Behaviors, "underreporting of cocaine was documented with urine testing validation as well where African Americans in comparison to Caucasians who were urine positive were about 6 times less likely to report cocaine use when other factors are controlled for."

Translation: When you ask, white people and black people report using cocaine in about the same amount. But when you test, black people are six times more likely to use cocaine. And lie about it.

More from the same journal for you science junkies:

The present study also identified predictors of discrepancies between self-report and hair testing. Race was the most salient predictor of cocaine disagreement.

Even when other factors were controlled for, the self-report and hair test results for African Americans were more discrepant than for non-African Americans, a finding consistent with past studies (Fendrich, et al., 1999; Feucht, Stephens, & Walker, 1994).

In a large study of youth (9–20), underreporting of cocaine was documented with urine testing validation as well (Fendrich & Yanchun, 1994) where African Americans in comparison to Caucasians who were urine positive were about 6 times less likely to report cocaine use when other factors are controlled for.

Our study extends this finding to a middle-aged sample of male African American Vietnam veterans and non-veteran community controls.

Race was the most salient factor? And these findings were consistent with past studies? The Washington *Post* is not going to like that because the people who did these reports actually tested.

Not just asked for a confession.

Anyone with one nanosecond of experience in public opinion research knows this: you don't ask. You check. If you want to know if you are talking to a Democrat, don't ask. Look at the registration. A recent study found people even lie about how often they go to church. They actually followed them and found

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that people said they went to church twice as often as they really did.

The study in the *Post* has a flip side, which they never get around to talking about: this disparity which the study debunks also means that apparently black kids are being unjustly convicted of crimes they did not commit. Or white kids are getting away with hundreds of thousands of crimes across the country. And of course those darn Asians are worst of all: they never get caught.

If true, it would be easy to show. With so many videos, victims, witnesses, 911 calls and police reports, if this epic level of racial injustice was something more than an academic fairy tale gobbled up the *Post* editors as if they were the townspeople in *The Music Man*, there would be lots of people with lots of stories in blogs and YouTube.

Lots and lots of lawsuits, too.

But that is what is missing from this huge conspiracy to ignore white crime and to put black children in reform schools For No Reason What So Ever.

Oh yeah, one last thing missing: the Truth: As bad as black crime rates are, the real numbers are worse. Far worse. Think of stitches for snitches. Witness intimidation. Bronx juries. Fewer arrests.

I get into that in some detail in my next book, *Don't Make the Black Kids Angry*, coming out March 1.

Even so, the hoax of black victimization grows. So does the number of academic and political and media leaders who are determined to prove it right. Determined there is no amount of evidence too big to ignore, deny or wish away.

Easy to do in the newsroom of the Washington *Post*. But on the streets of Washington, impossible.

Colin Flaherty is an award-winning reporter and author of the Amazon #1 Best Seller, White Girl Bleed a Lot. You can follow him on YouTube , email and all the usual places.

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